Miss Pearl was admitted on July 8, 1913, after suffering a "nervous breakdown" possibly brought on by the strain of nursing a sick father. Dr. Biggs observes that Miss Pearl's conversation was "disconnected & intensely self-centred." A sample was put into the "Clinical Record." It might be "disconnected" but it presents the "stream of consciousness" of someone recently admitted to the Asylum and not yet too jaded to notice its stimuli:

> This crazy business is not what it is cracked up to be .... some Drs. I know are not peace makers, are no good, I can work peace at home. I can tell a great deal about insanity. I can smell it, and then I work my way out. I think it is Providence that sent me here. If I had not trusted in Providence, I would not have got through the last 3 months .... I want to get busy, so I can take my mind off myself .... I never tie a knot with my tongue that I cannot untie with my teeth. I will hang a shingle out against you Dr., I will not work for less than $10.00 a day. Some people run around here with a handful of keys. I do not know what closed doors mean. It would just kill my father, If he knew I was here. He will be here in a few days. His head is bad enough, without worrying about me. I suppose if I would break down and cry, they would like that. I would sooner take up a chair and smash their brains out. I did not come here to be bossed. Hear that noise? That patient has got to be moved out of the room [patient heard somebody pounding upstairs] .... I want that woman taken away. My head is sore enough now, some poor soul in distress I suppose. When I was in Peterboro I did not have to wait, I know where I am well treated and where I am not. I would not give my little finger for their whole carcass. I think too hard, that is what hurts my head. My brain had a house-cleaning about three months ago. I never had a horse run away from me. I am not so crazy as cabbage looking. When I went to Rockwood, I knew I had found my mission. I could manage the patients better than the rest of them. I only had to get advice from the matron.

Miss Pearl's mocking claim to possess an expertise on insanity to rival the Doctors', is intelligently interspersed with references to the grim reality -- the